

AGENDA

MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday January 9, 2007

9:30 am – 4:30 pm

DEQ Directors Conference Room 111
1520 East 6th Avenue, Helena MT

9:30 Welcome, Introductions and Purpose of the Meeting.

The Council is embarking on a 10-year Strategic Framework for Protecting and Restoring Wetlands in Montana. We need everyone's participation. Meeting objectives include:

- Evaluate progress and challenges of past 10-years.
- Begin new 10-year strategic framework development.
- Learn about new technologies for wetlands identification and mapping.
- Energize and engage Council participants in creating a positive future for wetlands protection in Montana.

*Lynda Saul, Wetland Program Manager, MT Dept of Environmental Quality and
Pam Mavrolas, Strategic Planner.*

10:05 Assessing Our Wetland Protection Progress and Challenges.

Six individuals have been asked to research and share their perspectives on the following questions: What has been accomplished? What new capacity has been built or created? What significant gaps exist? What important lessons have we learned?

- Big Picture Overview - *Lynda Saul, DEQ*
- Data Collection and Information Management - *Courtney Frost, DEQ*
- Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation - *Linda Vance, MT Natural Heritage*
- Voluntary/Incentive Restoration and Protection - *Tom Hinz, MT Wetlands Legacy*
- Education, Outreach and Training - *Deb Fassnacht, Watershed Education Network*
- Regulatory and Enforcement - *Doug McDonald, Dept Fish Wildlife and Parks*
- Policy, Planning and Coordination - *Lynda Saul, DEQ*

12:05 Complimentary Lunch and Wetland Presentations

Please RSVP lsaul@mt.gov for complimentary lunch.

Demonstration of New Wetland Mapping Capabilities. *Tom Schemm, Montana Wetland & Riparian Mapping Center, MT Natural Heritage Program*

Use of Natural Heritage Portal for Viewing of Color Air Photos and Wetland Images. *Bryce Maxell, Senior Zoologist, Montana Natural Heritage Program*

1:15 Meet in Topic/Interest Groups

Break up into 6 groups listed above and discuss "What are the Challenges and Opportunities for Wetland Protection in Montana in the next 10 years"

Groups facilitated by topic leads

2:45 Break

3:00 Reassemble - Short Report from Each Group

Highlights from topic group discussions.

Themes and patterns as strategic direction for next 10 years.

Topic spokesperson and all participants.

3:45 Where Do We Go From Here?

Next steps for developing the 10-year Strategic Framework for Protecting and Restoring Wetlands in Montana. Request suggestions for designing the planning process.

Lynda Saul, DEQ

4:00 Announcements from Participants. Next Meeting Date. Closing.

4:30 Adjourn

The Montana Wetland Council meets three times a year in Helena and is an informational forum for wetland protection, restoration and management. Everyone is welcome to attend. For additional information please contact Lynda Saul, Montana DEQ, (406) 444-6652 or

lsaul@mt.gov